

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12426 180218Z

63

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 L-03 NASA-01 NSC-05

ERDA-05 /032 W

----- 028924

R 180145Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1650

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 12426

FOR OES/APT/SA

DEPT. PASS TO NASA HQ, CODE I

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, JA

SUBJECT: A JAPANESE SPACELAB?

1. STA HAS BEGUN A PAPER STUDY OF A PROGRAM TO LAUNCH AN ORBITING MATERIALS LABORATORY WHICH WOULD BE CAPABLE OF PREPARING ALLOYS AND OTHER MATERIALS UNDER ZERO-GRAVITY CONDITIONS. PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS OF LABORATORY ARE THAT (A) IT WOULD BE SOLAR-POWERED, (B) IT WOULD HAVE REMOTELY OPERATED ELECTRIC FURNACE AND MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT, (C) RAW MATERIALS AND FINISHED PRODUCTS WOULD BE TRANSPORTED TO AND FROM LABORATORY BY A SMALL "SHUTTLE", AND (EL GEANOTHER SATELLITE WOULD BE USED TO RELAY INSTRUCTIONS TO LABORATORY FROM GROUND STATION. SATELLITE WOULD BE ABOUT TWO METERS IN DIAMETER AND WEIGH ONE TO TWO TONS. ZWADVANCED N-1 ROCKET WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR LAUNCH. DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE WOULD REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF FIVE TO SIX YEARS.

2. DRIVING FORCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MATERIALS SATELLITE COMES FROM STA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR METALS. NRIM OFFICIAL IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT JAPAN NEEDS ITS OWN SATELLITE FOR PRODUCTION OF MATERIALS IN SPACE AND SHOULD NOT RELY ON OTHER COUNTRIES FOR THIS CAPABILITY. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT JAPAN'S

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 12426 180218Z

USE OF NASA SHUTTLE WOULD GIVE U.S. FIRST RIGHTS TO DATA OBTAINED

FROM EXPERIMENTS WHICH ARE AIMED AT DEVELOPING NEW MATERIALS.

3. EMBASSY'S OPINION, BASED IN PART ON PRELIMINARY CHECK WITH NASDA OFFICIAL, IS THAT PROJECT IS LONG-RANGE, PROBABLY WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT FUNDING, AND DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT ADVANCED N-1 ROCKET MAY HAVE APPLICATIONS OUTSIDE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIELD. AMONG OTHER SEVERE CONSTRAINTS, TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT NEEDED TO PERFORM DOCKING, REENTRY, AND RECOVERY OF MATERIALS SHUTTLE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE IN JAPAN WITHIN FIVE OR SIX YEARS IF CURRENT NASDA COMPETENCY AND BUDGET ARE VALUABLE INDICATORS. FURTHERMORE, CONTRARY TO OPINION STATED BY NRIM OFFICIAL, NASDA INDICATES THAT IT AND OTHER GOJ AGENCIES DO INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN NASA SPACELAB PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THE MATERIALS SATELLITE CONCEPT MAKES A GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS STORY THAT CAN BE USED BY NASDA IN DEFENSE OF ITS BUDGET FROM ATTACK BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. MOF IS MUCH COOLER TOWARD JAPANESE SPACE PROGRAM AFTER FAILURE OF NASDA'S ISS-1 AND UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO'S CORSA SATELLITES.

SHOESMITH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, SPACE PROGRAMS, LABORATORIES, METAL PRODUCTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO12426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760316-0413
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760841/aaaabjau.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <27 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr, REFER TO NASA>; RELEASED <23 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A JAPANESE SPACELAB?
TAGS: TSPA, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006